



ForestWatch Faces

Get to know the folks who make it happen

This web feature spotlights some of the special folks behind the scenes of Georgia ForestWatch. If you'd like to nominate someone for ForestWatch Faces, please contact our office by clicking the e-mail link below.

Meet Jim Sullivan: Georgia ForestWatch Founder & Advisor

The business of "forest-watching" has not been the same since Jim Sullivan came to north Georgia in 1980. He grew up in the national forests of his native Wisconsin as a Boy Scout and was an ecology major at the University of Wisconsin at Green Bay. He put both his youthful experiences and his education to good use here.

Jim began his work with ForestWatch when it was called Friends of the Mountains. He was a founding director of Georgia ForestWatch in the mid-1980s, was a long-time district leader and eventually served as president of the organization. Today, he serves as an advisor to the the board of directors and district leaders. He's also found the time to keep body and soul together building canoes and paddles, working in the apple orchards of Stephens County and most recently, serving as a key technician and ecological surveyor for the Georgia Forestry Commission. Jim plays a means guitar, has a mellifluous voice and works a big garden.

His love and understanding of the national forests in Georgia is virtually unparalleled, especially its native plants and flowers. "It's a place where I can hike into a wild place without asking permission from the landowner," he said. "Its public land, and its big tracts engage me – it's very interesting ecologically."

He is quick to share his knowledge of the forests with fellow ForestWatch members, many of whom received their first introduction to the flora and fauna and trees of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests on a Sullivan-led hike. "One thing that keeps me active in Georgia ForestWatch is the people in the organization. They have such a passion for the National Forest – they are as diverse as the forest is diverse, and that's the truth."

Thanks to Jim, the National Forests of Georgia are protected by Georgia ForestWatch.

Want to give us feedback or suggestions? Call our office at 706-635-8733, or send an e-mail to [info at gafw.org](mailto:info@gafw.org).